whom have gone the length of suggesting that assignments of lands should henceforth be made conditional on their cultivation within a specified time. I may assure you that the Government will not hesitate to adopt this suggestion if they are convinced that there is a pressing need for it.

7. Puduval Survey. The Puduval Survey Staff, created in the middle of 1096 to facilitate the disposal of applications for *puduval* lands, was charged with the detailed survey of minor circuit blocks in the twelve taluks of the State in which large areas are available for registry. This staff worked till the close of 1097 and completed the detailed survey of 122 square miles. As, by that date, it was found that the extent surveyed was ample enough to meet all present demand for fresh *puduvals*, this staff was considerably reduced in 1098 and the reduced staff directed to attend to the completion of the field work in the minor circuits, the survey of which had already been commenced, and to the correction of records. This temporary staff has been still further reduced in 1099, and the small staff remaining has been directed to close the balance of work under original survey and correction of records in the minor circuits already taken up.

8. Kodayar Area. The extension of wet cultivation within the area commanded by the Kodayar channels in South Travancore has, as you are aware, claimed the attention of the Government; and mainly as a result of the labours of the special officer appointed for the purpose, an extent of 490 acres was added to the wet area there in 1097 and 629 acres in 1098. The total extent of dry lands converted into wet within the commanded area up to the end of 1098 is 17,053 acres, leaving a balance of 8,508 acres still available for conversion. It will be noted that the lands so converted from 1096 are exempt from the payment of water-cess for a period of two years, and that only the reduced cess of Rs. 4 per acre is demanded from them during the third year. Action is being taken by the Revenue and the Public Works Departments in regard to the schemes submitted by the special officer for the opening of fresh distributary channels in the upper reaches of the commanded area and for the utilisation of the surplus and seepage water for the tail-end lands.

Government are glad to note that most of the block irrigation boards in this area have already been formed and that a good many of them have begun to function. It is hoped that the Central Board for the entire area will be constituted without further delay.

9. Disafforestation. In addition to the four taluk committees formed for the purpose of recommending areas suitable for paddy cultivation being thrown open from reserved forests, referred to in my Address last year, four more committees have since been constituted for the taluks of Pattanamtitta, Todupuzha, Muvattupuzha and Kunnatnad. Orders have already issued on the reports received from the committees for Peermade, Devicolam and Pattanapuram, whereby areas to the extent of about 790, 1,150 and 200 acres respectively have been thrown open for registry in those taluks. The reports of the other committees are awaited.

10. Land Colonisation. In paragraph 10 of my last year's Address, I referred to a scheme of land colonisation which was under the contemplation of Government as a means of meeting, in some measure, the problem of middle class unemployment in this country. The draft rules relating to the scheme have been published for criticism and will soon engage the final attention of the Government. This scheme has been the subject of a certain amount of adverse criticism both in the press and elsewhere. Some of these criticisms are valuable, containing as they do suggestions which would remove certain defects in the draft scheme and enhance its utility; and Government are grateful for such criticism. They do not claim perfection for their draft scheme and would endeavour to improve it as far as possible before it emerges in its final form. The remaining criticisms, however, which are pitched in a different key, aim at dismissing the scheme as chimerical and impracticable; and to those critics my answer is that the scheme is not so jejune or valueless as they would wish to make out. It may not go far; but should it be availed of by the people for whose benefit it is intended, it is sure to go some way to solve the acute

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